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DETECTION SURVEY OF ANNOSUS ROOT ROT

on the

ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST, 1968

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ABSTRACT

No Fomes annosus infection was found in a ground survey conducted in May 1968 on the Allegheny National Forest. Delaware Field Office personnel surveyed thinned red pine plantations covering 3500 acres.

INTRODUCTION

Fomes annosus (Fr.) Cke. has never been recorded in the Allegheny National Forest. This fungus, however, has caused root rot losses in parts of Pennsylvania, New York and New England. A ground survey of the Allegheny National Forest was undertaken to detect any spread from nearby infection centers onto the Forest.

METHODS

Red pine plantations thinned prior to 1967 were surveyed by transversing at 200- to 300-foot intervals. Dead and dying trees were examined to determine the probable cause of death. Four increment cores were taken from the base of each suspect tree for culturing. About 75 per cent of the trees in each plantation were seen.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A few small dead or dying suppressed trees were found in most of the plantations. This condition was considered to be the normal mortality due to suppression. At Brushy Creek and Seldom Seen Corners, poison used for thinning seems to have killed adjacent trees. Some codominant

and intermediate trees were killed by lightning. Cultures from co-dominant and intermediate trees near Watson Farm and Chaffee gave a negative diagnosis for Fomes annosus. With these exceptions, all of the pine observed appeared to be undamaged.

RECOMMENDATIONS

National Forest personnel should continue keeping thinned stands under observation for unusual mortality.